

HONORING LYNNE MOFENSON,
M.D.

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lynne Mofenson, M.D., who is retiring after 26 years of service to the federal government, and is currently Chief of the Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Branch at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Mofenson received the 2012 Federal Employee of the Year Award from the Partnership for Public Service. The award is one of nine Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals bestowed on public servants who make "high-impact contributions to the health, safety and well-being of Americans." She was recognized for playing a pivotal role in preventing the AIDS epidemic among U.S. children through an effective means of preventing pregnant women from passing HIV on to their infants, and for dedicating her career to conducting research on HIV which has influenced and informed national HIV policy.

In 1989, when Dr. Mofenson, a pediatric infectious disease physician, came to the NICHD, 25 to 35 percent of all infants born to mothers with HIV infection were themselves infected with HIV. The landmark research study published by Dr. Mofenson and her colleagues in 1994 showed that use of the anti-HIV drug AZT reduced the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission rate to 8.3 percent. Dr. Mofenson's further collaborations led to other successful strategies for blocking mother-to-child transmission, and currently, there are fewer than 100 new mother-to-child HIV cases in the U.S. each year—well under 1 percent. This is a true public health success story.

Dr. Mofenson has continued to work with colleagues in this country and around the world to reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission and to improve the treatments for children with HIV infection. She has played a critical role in the development and ongoing updates of evidence-based guidelines for the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the World Health Organization that provide blueprints for the timely conversion of research findings into real changes in medical care for women, children, and families affected by HIV worldwide. Please join me in honoring the lifelong work of this extraordinary scientist.

RECOGNIZING TOM HOWELLS OF
WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the many contributions of Mr. Tom Howells, who retired last month after serving 35 years as the President of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association (WMCA).

All of us in the Wisconsin delegation know Tom well from events around our state and

here in the nation's capital, including the annual Washington visit of WMCA members. We know Tom to be a man of great integrity and character. He has provided outstanding leadership over these past decades, with dedication, ingenuity and enthusiasm. Above all, Tom is simply a nice guy.

Under Tom's leadership, the WMCA established the first state trucking association "Road Team" in order to recognize safe truck drivers and promote highway safety. Similarly, he was involved in the creation of the President's Safe Driver Club in 1996 to recognize professional drivers with exemplary safety records employed by WMCA member companies. Eighteen years later, the club currently has over 1,350 drivers.

In 2004, Tom Howells was presented the Frank W. Babbitt Award for outstanding service to the local trucking industry, the association and the local community. Three years later in 2007, he was recognized by his peers and the American Trucking Associations when he was awarded the prestigious J. J. Keller President's Award. Tom was elected to serve as the National Chairman of the Trucking Association Executives Council from 1992–1993 and as the Chairman of the Wisconsin Highway Users Alliance from 2003–2013.

Tom Howells has been an institution in Madison and in the State of Wisconsin. He has provided stable and steady leadership in so many areas, and particularly in the area of highway safety. I will miss seeing him in his role as President of the WMCA, but I wish Tom and Muriel well in retirement and congratulate him for a job well done.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES
REGULATORY OVERREACH PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5078) to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5078, a bill that would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency from clarifying protections for drinking water under the Clean Water Act.

Today's legislation would prohibit the Army Corps and EPA from continuing proposed action to ensure that the streams and wetlands that feed our waterways and provide drinking water for millions of Americans are protected from pollution. In 2001 and 2006, Supreme Court decisions created confusion about precisely which upstream tributaries were covered by the law. Subsequent policy guidance only increased legal uncertainty and undermined efforts to protect drinking water for more than 117 million Americans, including more than 26 million residents in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

In response to this confusion, the Army Corps and EPA have proposed a rule that would clarify which waters must be protected

in order to safeguard public health and resources, and are currently seeking comments from stakeholders. Their proposal protects waters that have historically been covered by the Clean Water Act while continuing exemptions for agriculture. The bill on the floor today would not only shortcut the public comment process and withdraw the proposed rule, but would also prohibit the Army Corps and EPA from clarifying the regulation in the future.

For too long, legal uncertainty around the Clean Water Act jurisdiction has jeopardized the health of drinking water and created confusing delays for industry as they struggle to determine their responsibility under the law. Congress should allow this rulemaking to go forward to develop a clear, practical standard that restores protections to our communities. I urge a no vote on the bill.

HONORING THE NAPA COUNTY
LIBRARY LITERACY CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa County Library Literacy Center as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary of offering literacy services for adults in Napa County.

Thirty years ago, the Napa County Library received a grant for library literacy programs. At the time, they were one of few public libraries to have received such a grant in California. Since then, Napa County Library has developed their literacy program into the robust, comprehensive and effective program that it is today. More than 2,500 adults have received private tutoring sessions in English language literacy free of charge. Of course, this staggering accomplishment would not have been possible without the wonderful tutors that over the past 30 years, have volunteered more than 900,000 hours to help their fellow community members achieve their English language literacy goals.

I firmly believe that every American deserves the opportunity to learn to read, write and speak English. I could not be more proud to represent a district that not only shares this belief, but that works every day to make this a reality in our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we recognize the Napa County Library's Literacy Program for all they do to increase literacy in our community. On behalf of a grateful community, we honor and thank the Napa County Library today.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES
REGULATORY OVERREACH PRO-
TECTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5078) to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act. In Virginia and the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed we have already seen the Environmental Protection Agency micromanaging state and local water decisions. The EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule expands the regulatory over-reach we have seen in the Bay watershed to the entire United States while imposing even more harmful regulations on even more small streams, creeks, manmade ponds, and nearby wetlands under the agency's control.

Congress intended the states and federal government to implement the Clean Water Act as a federal-state partnership where the states and federal government act as co-regulators. This rule is just another example of EPA forgetting the Clean Water Act's goal of cooperative federalism. The EPA cannot re-write the Clean Water Act and expand their jurisdiction at a whim. Only Congress can grant that authority. Today's vote is an important step to rein in the EPA and protect the farmers, landowners, and local economies that stand to be harmed by this rule.

I urge passage of this important legislation. Protecting America's waterways is critical, but what we need are commonsense policies that will protect water quality without limiting economic growth and unfairly over-regulating local agricultural producers and economies—not more power grabs by the EPA.

H.R. 5078—WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES REGULATORY OVER-REACH PROTECTION ACT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act. I unfortunately missed the vote due to a conflict and had I been present, I would have voted "no." H.R. 5078 would prevent a proposed rule to protect clean water from taking effect and continue to give polluters a free pass.

Two Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006 resulted in confusion and uncertainty about which bodies of water are subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act, creating a loophole. This led the Bush Administration to issue guidance for regulated communities, but instead created the currently inconsistent, patchwork system. The proposed rule replaces the Bush Administration era guidance documents to reduce regulatory uncertainty and establish a clear process for asserting Clean Water Act jurisdiction over waters.

The proposed rule closes the loophole by clarifying federal jurisdiction to protect America's waters and does not seek to regulate bodies of water which have not historically been regulated under the Clean Water Act. In fact, the rule proposes to exclude ephemeral and intermittent ditches while maintaining historical exclusions and exemptions for agriculture. The rule also provides clarity about which wetlands are covered by the Clean Water Act. The rule would also prevent the

agencies from moving forward with any similar rule or guidance regarding the scope and enforcement of the Clean Water Act. According to a Tampa Bay Times editorial in support of the rule, "the EPA estimates that the marginal costs of implementing the rule would generate about double the return in benefits to public health, flood control and the economy."

Federal regulations to close the existing loophole and protect water quality are especially important to my home state of Florida which depends on a healthy environment for a prosperous economy. As the loophole stands, nearly 30 percent of Florida's streams and millions of wetlands are at risk of unchecked pollution and development and threatens the drinking water for 1.7 Floridians. More than 80 percent of the lakes and reservoirs that have been tested in Florida have failed basic water quality standards. Densely populated Hillsborough County, where my district is located, ranks first in Florida for miles of streams unprotected by the Clean Water Act. The rule would improve Florida's waters by closing the existing loophole. Unfortunately, this piece of legislation before us would prevent the government from cleaning our polluted waters. The President threatened to veto this legislation for good reason, noting that "this bill is not an act of good government."

Millions of Americans get their drinking water from rivers, lakes, and reservoirs that are at risk of pollution from upstream sources. In Florida, several rivers, including the Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, Suwannee and Escambia Rivers have their headwaters in other states. Floridians are directly affected by upstream degradation to the quality of these rivers before they enter our state. Major pollution from the Mississippi River and other out of state factors have severely harmed the Apalachicola Bay and consequently the northwest Florida economy where the sponsor's district is located.

Florida's economy is inextricably linked to a healthy environment, particularly its bodies of water and the wetlands those waters rely on. Wetlands, rich in biodiversity, provide services that are critical for drinking water, water quality, water supply, groundwater recharge, flood control, recreation such as fishing, and habitat for threatened and endangered species. Florida, the state with the most wetlands in the continental United States, has already lost half its historic wetlands acreage due to degradation and continues to do so.

Florida's and the Gulf of Mexico's waters are poisoned every year by more than 4 billion gallons of oil, fertilizer ingredients and other hazardous materials. Tampa Bay, the largest open water estuary on the Gulf, is also fouled by other sources, with more than half of the nitrogen entering it coming from urban stormwater runoff that carries lawn fertilizer, pesticide residues, and trash. Pollution throughout Florida's waterways has led to record amounts of toxic red tide and algae blooms which are created by nutrients from farm fertilizers. Scientists theorize that algae and red tide have contributed to the record deaths of 10 percent of the Florida manatee population over the past year. Likely due to red tide, pollution has resulted in an unprecedented number of deaths of dolphins and pelicans.

Pollution costs Floridians billions of dollars each year. Sustainable water supplies are at risk in Florida due to the loss of natural sys-

tems. The rule is needed to restore protections for streams and wetlands across the country. Florida's economy and public health depend on clean water.

I would like to submit a list of the members of the Florida Conservation Coalition. The Coalition is composed of over 50 conservation organizations and thousands of individuals devoted to protecting and conserving Florida's land, fish and wildlife and water resources and it strongly opposes this piece of legislation.

FLORIDA CONSERVATION COALITION

Bob Graham, Fmr Governor of Florida and U.S. Senator; Nathaniel Pryor Reed, Fmr Assistant-Secretary of the Interior; Commissioner Lee Constantine—Seminole County Commissioner; Audubon Florida; Audubon of Southwest Florida; Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Florida Wildlife Federation; Friends of the Everglades; National Parks Conservation Association; Peace River Audubon Society; Sierra Club; South Florida Audubon Society.

League of Women Voters; 1000 Friends of Florida; St. Johns Riverkeeper; Trust for Public Land; Lester Abberger; John Finlayson—Former Chairman SRWMD; Bill Herr, Environmental Consultant, Former Chairman SJRWMD; Gary Kuhl, Former Exec Director, SWFWMD; Jay Landers, Fmr Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection; Sonny Vergara, Fmr Executive Director SWFWMD and SJRWMD; Estus Whitfield, Fmr Principal Environmental Advisor to 5 FL Governors.

Affiliates:

Alliance of Florida Land Trust; Alliance to Protect Water Resources, Inc.; Back Ten Feet; Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association; Center for Earth Jurisprudence; Citrus County Audubon Society; Citrus County Council; Conservation Trust for America; Coral Gables Area Democratic Club; Current Problems; Dade City Garden Club.

Defenders of Wildlife; Duval Audubon Society; Estero Council of Community Leaders; EarthJustice; Florida Consumer Action Network; Florida Conservation Alliance; Florida's Eden; Florida Defenders of the Environment; Florida Native Plant Society; Florida Federation of Garden Clubs; Florida Trail Association; Florida Outdoor Recreation Coalition.

Friends of the Wekiva River; Florida Wildflower Foundation; Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Gulf Restoration Network; Ideas For Us; Lake Area Water Alliance; Homosassa River Alliance; Martin County Conservation Alliance; North Florida Land Trust; Paddle Florida; Rainbow River Conservation, Inc.

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association; Save Our Suwannee; Save the Manatee Club; Silver Springs Alliance; Suwannee River Garden Club; Southwest Florida Watershed Council; St. Johns River Alliance; The Conservation Fund; United Waterfowlers—Florida; Wildlands Conservation; Wakulla Springs Alliance; War, Inc.; Wildwood Preservation Society.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE AND HELPING WORKING AMERICANS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the millions of hard-working men and women in America today who are barely making ends meet, living paycheck to paycheck, and how this chamber can